

**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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October 27, 1998

Wendell E. Cole, President
Board of Directors
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
P. O. Box 95
Eureka, CA 95502

Dear Mr. Cole:

This is in response to your letter of October 9, 1998 to Senator Mike Thompson and Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin regarding the draft CALFED urban water use efficiency program. I appreciate the opportunity to describe the draft program to you, and to inform you of future opportunities to comment on the draft program and help improve it before it is adopted by the CALFED agencies.

Efficient use of water is an extremely important part of water management in California, yielding local benefits as well as improvements in statewide water supply reliability. Consequently, cost-effective water use efficiency is a central part of the CALFED Program. We propose significant increases in state and federal programs to provide assistance to local water suppliers. This will help ensure that a lack of technical and financial assistance will not be an impediment to the implementation of cost-effective measures at the local level. The water bond that had been proposed for the November ballot included substantial funding for water conservation programs, so that water suppliers would be able to finance large capital improvement conservation projects. We will continue to work for such funding.

In addition, CALFED's urban water use efficiency program relies heavily on existing laws and institutions. We propose that urban water suppliers continue to prepare, adopt, and implement urban water management plans pursuant to the California Water Code (Urban Water Management Planning Act, Sec. 10610 et. Seq.). This law recognizes the variation in local community characteristics and includes the flexibility for local water management plans to vary according to these local conditions. CALFED proposes that urban water management plans that comply with the law should be certified, and water suppliers whose plans are not certified should be ineligible for state assistance such as access to a drought water bank or access to a water transfers market.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

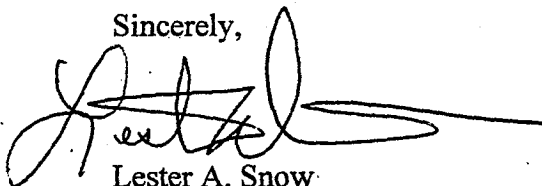
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One part of the Urban Water Management Planning Act requires water suppliers to consider implementation of certain conservation measures called Best Management Practices. In order to provide a high level of flexibility and local agency input, CALFED proposes that certification of a water supplier's implementation of Best Management Practices should be carried out not by a State or federal agency, but by the California Urban Water Conservation Council. This Council, established in 1991, is composed of over 150 local water suppliers and public advocacy groups. This Council was formed in order to help water suppliers implement cost-effective programs in ways that are best suited to local conditions. Water suppliers can also exempt themselves from practices that are not cost-effective or feasible.

There will be additional opportunities for public comment and program modification before the CALFED program is adopted. We expect to distribute revised draft program descriptions this December. We are tentatively planning workshops on California Urban Water Conservation Council certification, to be held early in 1999. A revised draft Programmatic EIS/EIR will be released during the first half of 1999. All of these events will provide you with an opportunity to offer suggestions on how the water use efficiency program can be modified and improved.

Please feel free to contact my office if you would like additional information on the proposed water use efficiency program. To make sure that you are informed of future opportunities to learn about the CALFED program and comment on it, you may want to contact Ms. Valerie Holcomb, our public affairs director at (916) 654-7137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc Steve Hall, ACWA
Catherine Smith, CSDA
Senator Maurice Johannessen
Mary Lou Cotton, KCWA
HBMWD's Municipal Customers
City of Fortuna